



## **INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**



# **WILDLAND FIRE SAFETY REFRESHER**

### **Mission Statement**

**The intent of annual fireline safety refresher training is to focus line-going personnel on operations and decision-making issues related to fireline and all-hazard incident safety. Refresher training will ensure firefighters have information regarding current initiatives and the upcoming fire season. Refresher training is provided in order to recognize and mitigate risk, maintain safe practices, and reduce accidents and near misses.**

*The 2016 Fire Refresher was built for firefighters, by firefighters.*

**<http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/>**



## Notes to Instructor

### *Introduction*

Annual Fireline Safety Refresher Training is required for all personnel participating in wildland fire who may be subject to assignments on the fireline. Check specific agency policy at the WFSTAR website to determine if this training package meets refresher training requirements of all the attendees.

### *Expectations*

**\*\*NOTE: This is not a plug and play product. Instructor preparation and student interaction is required.**

Instructors should facilitate a quality refresher that engages all students no matter their ICS qualification or firefighting experience. The success of this program is dependent on your ability to stimulate meaningful discussion during group exercises. Classes with a wide array of experiences and qualifications can provide an excellent opportunity for the less experienced to be mentored and for the more experienced to rethink old habits.

### *Instructor Prerequisites*

Lead instructors must be at least Single Resource Boss (SRB) qualified, and unit instructors must be at least Firefighter Type 1 (FFT1) qualified.

Adjunct instructors may be utilized to provide limited instruction in specialized knowledge and skills at the discretion of the lead instructor. They must be experienced, proficient and knowledgeable of current issues in their field of expertise.

All instructors will need the knowledge and skills to utilize current educational technology, as it relates to the WFSTAR website. Examples would be streaming and downloading interactive videos as well as the use of apps and mobile devices.



## *Equipment and Materials*

A list of equipment and other material required for course presentation includes:

- Media player
- Instructor Guide and Student Workbooks from [WFSTAR](http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar) website
- *Incident Response Pocket Guide*, one for each student
- Sign-in sheet/training documentation form
- Flip chart(s) with paper and marking pens
- Download modules from [WFSTAR](http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar) website
- Optional: *New Generation Fire Shelter* video, NFES #2711
- Optional: *The New Generation Fire Shelter* booklet, NFES #2710

## *Administration*

The instructor is responsible for identifying necessary equipment, materials, and supplies. The instructor is also responsible for recording attendance and assuring that evaluations are completed and returned:

**ON THE WEB:** [http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/contact\\_comments.html](http://www.nifc.gov/wfstar/contact_comments.html)  
**BY MAIL:** NWCG Training Development  
Attn. Travis Touchette  
3833 S. Development Avenue  
Boise, ID 83705  
**BY FAX:** (208) 387-5378  
**BY E-MAIL:** [ttouchette@fs.fed.us](mailto:ttouchette@fs.fed.us)

If all modules are utilized, the length of this program is approximately four hours, depending on time allowed for exercises. Additional time will be needed for the fire shelter deployment practice.



## Fireline Fuel Safety

### *Overview:*

This module is intended to aid firefighters in identifying vapor lock, pressurized fuel tanks and provide recommendations to mitigate fuel spray accidents and burn injuries.

**Target Audience:** Wildland Firefighters

**Time:** Video 5 minutes

**Exercise:** 20 minutes

### *Instructor Tasks*

- The facilitator of this module needs to understand vapor lock and fuel tank pressurization. As a facilitator you will need to ensure the students grasp this concept.
- Introduce the overview listed above.
- Watch the Fireline Fuel Safety video on the WFSTAR site. Discuss in small groups or as a class the questions below. If done in groups, share with the class.
- **Please read the Willow Peak FLA and the Dry Creek Near-Miss Lessons Learned Review before leading this module.** Print copies of the executive summary and share with the students. Both documents are hosted on the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center website.
- Key discussion point 1 - If the sawyer filled the tank 10 minutes ago and the saw is now acting like it is out fuel, you are very likely vapor locked.
- Key discussion point 2 – The most important thing to remember is to slowly open the fuel cap, which will allow the fuel tank to vent pressure.

**Please submit feedback for the 2016 Fire.  
Refresher using this QR code or the following link:**

<https://goo.gl/iodnlr>





## ***Activity***

There have been several documented cases of pressurized fuel tank and vapor lock incidents. Some of these cases resulted in the sawyer being seriously burned from the vaporized fuel spraying and igniting.

- What causes vapor pressure to build in fuel tanks?
- What is vapor lock?
- What are the signs of vapor lock?

You are a sawyer on an Interagency Type 2IA Regs Crew. It is the first fire of the year for everyone on the crew. The fire is located in a high desert fuel type in southern Arizona. It is over 100 degrees outside. You filled your saw less than ten minutes ago and it is now starting to bog out as though it is out of fuel. You have been cutting burning juniper and suspect the saw may be vapor locking.

- When vapor lock is suspected, what should you do? What should you *not* do?
- What are the most important things to remember when opening a fuel tank that may be under the influence of vapor pressure or vapor lock?

## ***Instructor Notes:***

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